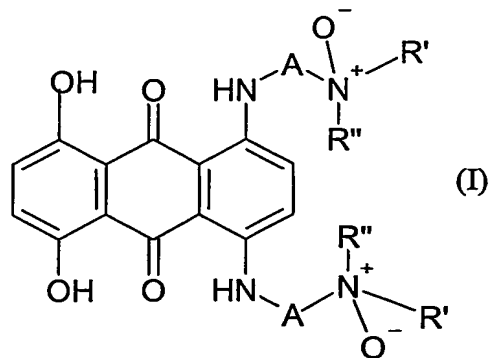


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



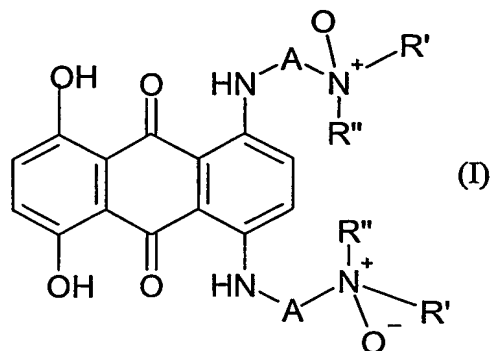
- 5 in which A is a C alkylene group with a chain length between NH and N(O)R'R" of at least 2 carbon atoms and R' and R" are each separately selected from C₁₋₄ alkyl groups and C₂₋₄ hydroxyalkyl and C₂₋₄ dihydroxyalkyl groups in which the carbon atom attached to the nitrogen atom does not carry a hydroxy group and no carbon atom is substituted by two hydroxy groups, or R' and R" together are a C₂₋₆ alkylene group which with the nitrogen atom to which R' and R" are attached forms a heterocyclic group having 3 to 7 atoms in the ring,
- 10

characterised in that the compound is formulated so that upon dissolution in aqueous solution the pH of the solution is in the range of 5 to 9.

- 15 2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that the compound is formulated so that upon dissolution in aqueous solution the pH of the solution is in the range of 6 to 8.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 characterised in that the compound is used in the form of a salt with an physiologically acceptable acid having a pK_a in the range of -3.0 (minus 3.0) to 9.0.
- 20

4. A compound of formula (I):



in which A is a C alkylene group with a chain length between NH and N(O)R'R'' of at least 2 carbon atoms and R' and R'' are each separately selected from C₁₋₄ alkyl groups and C₂₋₄ hydroxyalkyl and C₂₋₄ dihydroxyalkyl groups in which the carbon atom attached to the nitrogen atom does not carry a hydroxy group and no carbon atom is substituted by two hydroxy groups, or R' and R'' together are a C₂₋₆ alkylene group which with the nitrogen atom to which R' and R'' are attached forms a heterocyclic group having 3 to 7 atoms in the ring,

characterised in that the compound is in the form of a salt with a physiologically acceptable acid having a pK_a in the range of -3.0 (minus 3.0) to 9.0.

5. A compound as claimed in claim 3 or 4 characterised in that the physiologically acceptable acid has a pK_a in the range of 2.0 to 9.0.

6. A compound as claimed in claim 5 characterised in that the physiologically acceptable acid has a pK_a in the range of 2.0 to 6.0.

7. A compound as claimed in claim 6 characterised in that the physiologically acceptable acid has a pK_a in the range of 3.0 to 6.0.

8. A compound as claimed in claim 3 characterised in that the physiologically acceptable is an organic mono-, di- or tri-acid.

9. A compound as claimed in claim 3 or 4 characterised in that the physiologically acceptable selected from the group consisting of tartaric acid, malonic acid, dichloroacetate acid, citric acid, maleic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, pimelic acid and acetic acid.

10. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that A is a straight chain alkylene group.
- 5 11. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that A is ethylene.
12. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that R' and R" are straight chain alkyl groups or hydroxy-substituted alkyl groups.
- 10 13. A compound as claimed in claim 12 characterised in that R' and R" are each CH₃ or CH₂CH₃.
14. A compound as claimed in claim 13 characterised in that each group of
15 formula NH-A-N(O)R'R" is group of formula NH-(CH₂)₂-N(O)(CH₃)₂.
15. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the compound is formulated in a mixture containing additional components so that upon dissolution in aqueous solution the pH of the solution is buffered to be in the range of
20 5 to 9.
16. An aqueous solution of a compound as claimed in any preceding claim, characterised in that the pH of the solution is in the range of 5 to 9.
- 25 17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 14 together with a physiologically acceptable diluent or carrier.
18. A compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 15 for use in
30 therapy.